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FROM: TUNIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 195, SEPTEMBER 20, 5 PM

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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LE PETIT MATIN SEPTEMBER 18 CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY
 MAURICE MASCHINO ACCUSING US NAVAL VESSELS OF WANTONLY
 FIRING AUGUST 24 ON BUILDINGS IN HAVANA HOUSING CIVILIANS,
 ESPECIALLY CHILDREN. ARTICLE CONTINUES THIS NOT FIRST
 ATTACK ON CUBA. IN APRIL 1961 US MERCENARIES DEBARKED
 ON ISLAND BUT THEY WERE DEFEATED. US HAS SINCE KEPT UP
 STEADY HARASSMENT. IF THIS ATTACK SURPRISES ANYONE IT IS
 BECAUSE WESTERN PRESS COVERS UP YANKEE CRIMES WITH
 COMPLACENT SILENCE. IN CUBA NO ONE SURPRISED. THEY
 KNOW US HAS NOT YET ADMITTED CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY
 PROCESS IS IRREVERSIBLE AND THEY DO THEIR UTMOST TO CHECK
 IT. WHY SUCH OUTBURSTS AGAINST CUBANS? BECAUSE CUBA WILL
 BECOME A MILITARY BASE FOR SOVIET OFFENSE AGAINST US?
 WHO CAN SERIOUSLY BELIEVE CUBA WILL ACT AGGRESSIVELY
 AGAINST US? SOVIETS ARE NOT PLANNING ATTACK US, KHRUSHCHEV
 HAS OTHER MEANS LIQUIDATE IMPERIALISM. AMERICANS ARE
 ONLY AWAITING JUSTIFICATION FOR SENDING MARINES.

ARTICLE THEN CONTINUES CUBA HAS SHOWN EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY
 LATIN AMERICA, THAT YANKEE IMPERIALISM CAN BE OVERCOME
 AND IS THEREFORE IN AMERICAN EYES INCITING REVOLUTION.
 WHAT CUBANS HAVE DONE BRAZILIANS, MEXICANS, CHILEANS
 AND GUATEMALANS CAN DO TOMORROW. WRITER ACCUSES US
 SPENDING \$4,000 PER MINUTE, \$6,000,000 PER DAY AND
 \$2,000,000,000 PER YEAR TO TIE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES
 TO US.

WRITER CONSIDERS DIRECT US INTERVENTION UNLIKELY.
 SOVIET UNION HELP TO CUBA WOULD BE IMMEDIATE AND THE

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INDIRECT INTERVENTION. SUCH INTERVENTION WILL COME
TO NAUGHT AS CUBAN PEOPLE ARE BEHIND PRESENT REGIME.
NOT ONLY SOLDIERS BUT WORKERS ARE ARMED. CONCLUSION IS
SIMPLE: MERCENARIES TRAINED BY AMERICAN SPECIAL FORCES,
MONOPOLIES WHO FINANCE THEM, THE CONGRESS WHICH LEGISLATES
IN THEIR INTEREST WILL NOT RECOVER CUBA. SUSTAINED BY
SOVIET UNION, CHINA AND ALL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, CUBAN
REVOLUTION IS INVINCIBLE. CUBANS SAY "WE WILL CONQUER"
AND THANKS TO THEM, SOON ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF LATIN
AMERICAN WILL BREAK THEIR CHAINS.

COMMENT: LE PETIT MATIN GENERALLY CONSIDERED AS SEMI-
OFFICIAL PAPER WHOSE CONTENTS COULD BE FIRMLY CONTROLLED
BUT HAVE BEEN LOOSELY CONTROLLED BY GOT. SINCE FRENCH
LANGUAGE EDITION AL AMAL BEGAN TO APPEAR FEW WEEKS AGO,
GOT INTEREST HAS ALLEGEDLY WANED IN LE PETIT MATIN.
FEW PEOPLE KNOW THIS HOWEVER AND APPEARANCE THIS
SCURRILOUS ARTICLE IN PAPER GOT COULD CONTROL MIGHT BE
TAKEN TO CONNOTE TOLERATION IF NOT APPROVAL BY A FRIENDLY
GOVERNMENT SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION OUR AID
PROGRAM.

USIS HAS ASKED FOR MATERIAL ON CUBA (TOUSI 56) AND
BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE WE BELIEVE THAT LE PETIT
MATIN WILL PRINT IT FOR US. BUT IN ADDITION UNLESS
OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED I INTEND SEIZE OPPORTUNE MOMENT
TO COMPLAIN TO EDITOR AND MAKE POINT WITH ESSAFT (FONMIN)
THAT WHILE PEOPLE IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES CANNOT ESCAPE
THIS TYPE PROPAGANDA, I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY GOT SHOULD
HARBOR THIS FRENCH COMMUNIST ESCAPEE AND PERMIT HIM TO MISLEAD
TUN READERS WITH LIES AGAINST ONE OF TUNISIA'S BEST FRIENDS.

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